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Chairman Shingoitewa, Vice Chairman Honanie thank caregivers

*"Caring for people is a big responsibility and it takes special people to provide this vital service."
– Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa*

KYKOTSMOVI, Ariz. – In the spirit of National Family Caregivers Month, Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa and Vice Chairman Herman G. Honanie are encouraging everyone to thank those who provide care to family members, friends and neighbors.

On Oct. 29, U.S. President Barack Obama proclaimed November 2010 as National Family Caregivers Month.

The proclamation states, "Every day, family members, friends, neighbors, and concerned individuals across America provide essential attention and assistance to their loved ones. Many individuals in need of care -- including children, elders, and persons with disabilities -- would have difficulty remaining safely in their homes and community without the support of their relatives and caregivers."

"Caregivers often look after multiple generations of family members. Their efforts are vital to the quality of life of countless American seniors, bringing comfort and friendship to these treasured citizens. However, this labor of love can result in physical, psychological, and financial hardship for caregivers, and research suggests they often put their own health and well-being at risk while assisting loved ones," the proclamation states. "Through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, individuals can help their loved ones remain comfortably in the home and receive assistance with their care giving responsibilities. This program provides information, assistance, counseling, training, support groups, and respite care for caregivers across our country."

The proclamation also states the Obama Administration's Middle Class Task Force has made supporting family caregivers a priority and they are working to assist caregivers juggling work, filial and financial responsibilities.

Chairman Shingoitewa appreciates the proclamation and commends President Obama for acknowledging the work of caregivers.

"I join President Obama in encouraging everyone to thank those who provide care for their family members, friends and neighbors. Many children, elderly and people with special needs are in need of care – even right here on Hopi," Shingoitewa said. "Caring for people is a big responsibility and it takes special people to provide this vital service."

Vice Chairman Honanie also acknowledged the important role of caregivers and said, "Everyone should support and encourage them [caregivers] to continue with this important service. This is a cultural trait, which makes Hopi society stronger. We must help one another. Kwak kwah (thank you) to all the caregivers on Hopi."

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